

SWAMP
DC
THING

FIRST STARTLING ISSUE

20¢

SWAMP THING

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
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1970

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BEGINNING--A **NEW** KIND OF GRAPHIC EXCITEMENT--

THE
SAGA
OF THE

SWAMP THING!

THE DARKNESS CRIES--A LONG, MOURNFUL WAIL THAT WRITHES THROUGH THE GNARLED CYPRESS BRANCHES LIKE A BREATH OF HADES' WIND, SKIPPING OVER THE PLACID SURFACE OF THE STAGNANT MIRE BELOW...

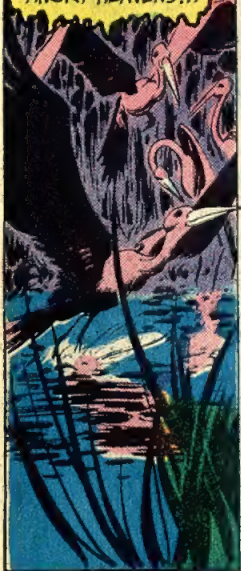
THIS IS **BAYOU COUNTRY**: A SWAMPY, DESOLATE MARCHLAND FORSAKEN BY CIVILIZED MAN-- AND NOW INHABITED BY FAR LESS DEMANDING CREATURES...

SCREAMING HERONS STRETCH THEIR SLEEK WINGS TOWARD THE ANGRY HEAVENS...

MOTTLED BULL-FROGS SING THEIR CROAKING NIGHT-SONG IN EAGER ANTICIPATION...

GREAT REPTILES LOLL UNCARINGLY BENEATH THE CLOUD-CLOAKED MOON...

AND THIS NIGHT, THIS RAINY, WIND-SWEPT NIGHT, IMPATIENT HUMANITY INTRUDES ITSELF INTO THIS PRIMITIVE REGION ONCE MORE...



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**HUMANITY--AND SOMETHING
FAR LESS THAN HUMAN!**

**THE MISSHAPEN MONSTROSITY
PRESSES DEEPER INTO THE SHADOWS
SURROUNDING THE SINGLE WOODEN
STRUCTURE THAT RISES FROM THE
BOG...**

**...AND HIS
PUZZLED
MIND
FAIRLY
CRACKLES
WITH
THOUGHT...**

DARK GENESIS!

**A NEW DC COMICS CONCEPT!
WRITTEN BY: LEN WEIN
ILLUSTRATED BY: BERNI
WRIGHTSON
EDITED BY: JOE ORLANDO**

**THEY WILL RETURN...
THOSE WHO KILLED
ME! THEY WILL
RETURN...**

**...AND I
WILL BE
WAITING!**

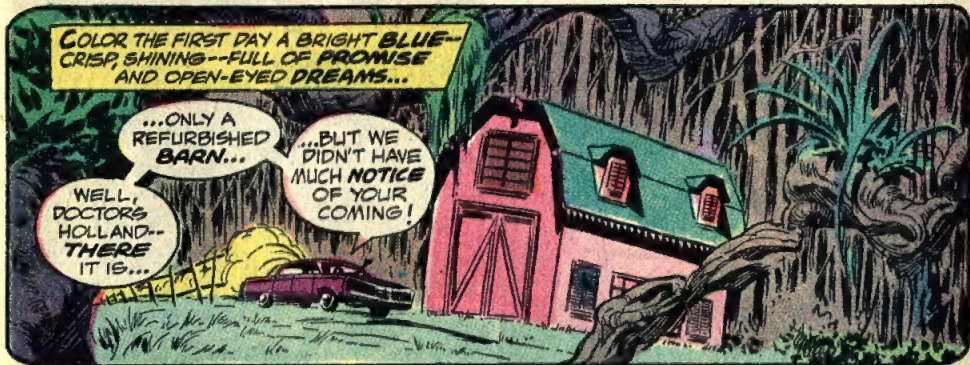


SILENTLY, THE CREATURE LURCHES FORWARD, INTO A DRIVING WIND... AND A RAIN FILLED WITH MEMORIES...

THAT HOUSE... THAT SMIRKING SHELL OF A HOUSE...

...STANDS THERE TAUNTING ME... LAUGHING...

...AS IF IT WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED HERE!



COLOR THE FIRST DAY A BRIGHT BLUE-- CRISP, SHINING-- FULL OF PROMISE AND OPEN-EYED DREAMS...

...ONLY A REFURBISHED BARN...

...BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH NOTICE OF YOUR COMING!

WELL, DOCTORS HOLLAND-- THERE IT IS...



WE UNDERSTAND, LT. CABLE-- WASHINGTON WANTS TO KEEP OUR PRESENCE HERE TOP-SECRET!

SEEMS WE'RE PRIORITY-ONE MERCHANDISE!

ALEC, PLEASE-- YOU MAKE US SOUND LIKE SOMETHING AT A SHOPPER'S SALE!

MAYBE YOU ARE, MRS. HOLLAND...



...THE WORK YOU TWO ARE DOING IN BIO-RESTORATIVE RESEARCH IS INVALUABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE STASHING YOU HERE-- IN THIS SUBURB OF NOWHERE...

...TO KEEP YOU OUT OF THE HANDS OF OTHER PROSPECTIVE "SHOPPERS"!



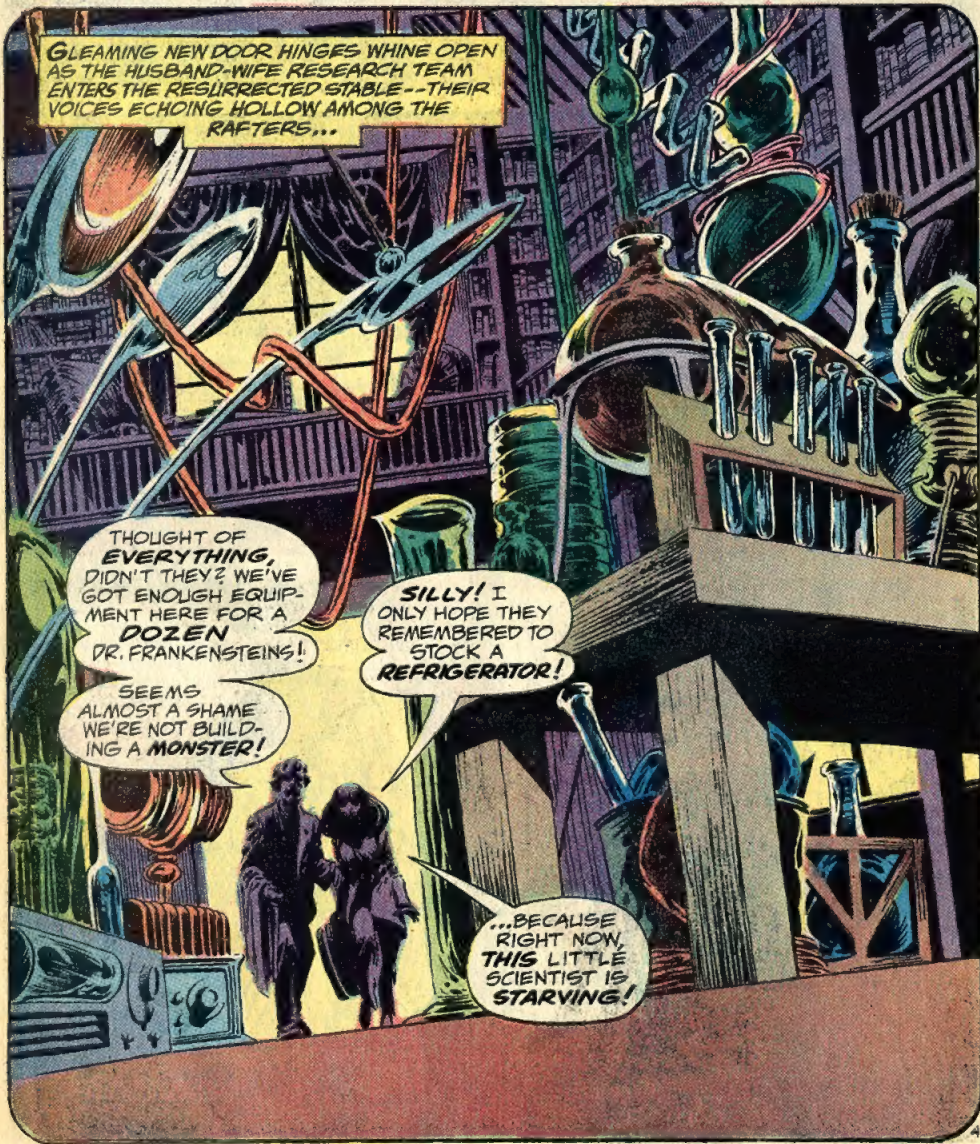
OH, BY THE WAY--
IF YOU HEAR TRAFFIC,
DON'T LET IT SPOOK
YOU...

WOULDN'T
WANT TO
LOSE THE
"MERCHANDISE"!

ALEC,
LET'S GO
INSIDE--!

...THERE'LL
BE A
PATROL CAR
IN THE AREA
CONSTANTLY!

GLEAMING NEW DOOR HINGES WHINE OPEN
AS THE HUSBAND-WIFE RESEARCH TEAM
ENTERS THE RESURRECTED STABLE--THEIR
VOICES ECHOING HOLLOW AMONG THE
RAFTERS...



THOUGHT OF
EVERYTHING,
DIDN'T THEY? WE'VE
GOT ENOUGH EQUIP-
MENT HERE FOR A
DOZEN
DR. FRANKENSTEINS!

SILLY! I
ONLY HOPE THEY
REMEMBERED TO
STOCK A
REFRIGERATOR!

SEEMS
ALMOST A SHAME
WE'RE NOT BUILD-
ING A MONSTER!

...BECAUSE
RIGHT NOW,
THIS LITTLE
SCIENTIST IS
STARVING!



EVENING, A FEW DAYS LATER--AND THE PROJECT IS WELL UNDER WAY...

WELL, SWEETHEART-- WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ARE WE READY TO TRY IT?

THEORETICALLY, YES -- BUT I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO QUOTE ME!

I HATE TO BE PROVEN WRONG!



BUT IF WE'RE RIGHT, LARGER QUANTITIES OF OUR CHEMICAL WILL BE USED TO CREATE GARDENS OUT OF SWELTERING DESERTS...

...AND THAT IS DEFINITELY WORTH THE EFFORT!



WELL-- CAN I QUOTE YOU NOW?



THE COMPOUND WORKED BETTER THAN...

UH, OH-- O' MATT CABLE AT THE DOOR!

WE'D BETTER LET HIM IN, LINDA!

KNOCK! KNOCK!



DR. HOLLAND? MY NAME IS FERRETT!

MY ASSOCIATES AND I WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU IF WE COULD...

...IN PRIVATE!



HOLD ON, FRIEND--
THERE'S SUPPOSED
TO BE A CAR
PATROLLING THIS
AREA!

JUST HOW
DID YOU AND
YOUR CRONIES
GET PAST-?

PLEASE,
DR. HOLLAND--
WE HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS TO
DISCUSS!



WE THREE REPRESENT
A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION
INTERESTED IN PURCHASING
YOUR BIO-RESTORATIVE
FORMULA...

...SO INTERESTED,
IN FACT, THAT WE
HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED
TO OFFER YOU A
BLANK CHECK
FOR THE EX-
CLUSIVE RIGHTS...

...AND IF I WERE
YOU, DR. HOLLAND...
I'D ACCEPT OUR
OFFER!



BUT YOU'RE NOT
ME, FRIEND--AND OUR
FORMULA ISN'T
FOR SALE!

PERHAPS
YOU CAN BE
CONVINCED
OTHER-
WISE,
DOCTOR...

BRUNO,
CONVINCE
THE GENTLEMAN!



YOU'D BETTER
SAVE
THE CONVINCING,
FERRETT...

...CAUSE WE
GOT COMPANY!

THERE'S ANOTHER
CAR COMIN' UP
THE ROAD!



HATE TO CUT OUR
LITTLE CHAT SHORT,
DOCTOR-- BUT WE
REALLY HAVE TO
RUN!

WHY DON'T YOU
THINK ABOUT
ACCEPTING
OUR GENEROUS
OFFER?

YOU WOULD SAVE
US ALL A LOT OF
TROUBLE IF
YOU DO!

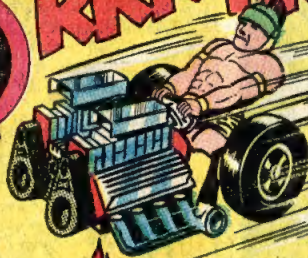
WE'LL BE
SEEING YOU,
DR. HOLLAND...
SOON!

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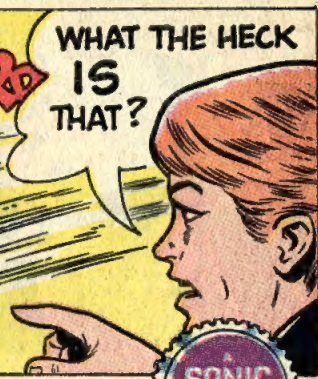
Kenner's.



RRR-RRRR



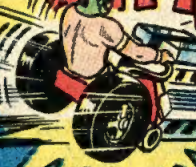
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?



WOW!



WHAM



IT'S THE NEWEST SSP IDEA... A HERK ACTION STUNT SET!



SET UP CAESAR'S SNAPTOGETHER COLUMNS

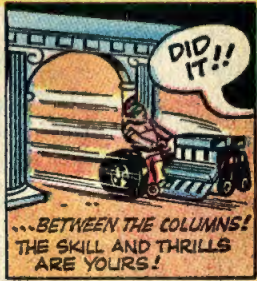


PULL -- TRY TO GET HERK TO JUMP...



ZOWIE!

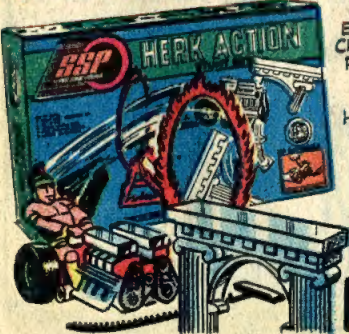
...THRU THE RING OF FIRE AND ...



DID IT!!

...BETWEEN THE COLUMNS! THE SKILL AND THRILLS ARE YOURS!

Kenner's HERK ACTION STUNT SET



COMES WITH EVERYTHING TO CREATE EXCITING ROMAN CIRCUS THRILLS!

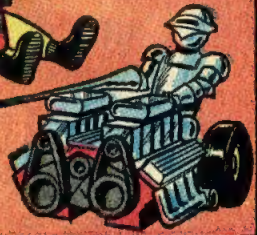
HERK STUNT MAN, CAESAR'S COLUMNS, THAT SMASH APART AND SNAP BACK TOGETHER, RING OF FIRE, JUMP RAMP AND T-STICK.

OTHER SSP™ STUNT MEN WITH SONIC SOUND AND T-STICK AVAILABLE SEPARATELY!

MOVIN' MARVIN



KNIGHT RIDER





THE SOUND OF ONE CAR MOTOR DIES AWAY TO BE REPLACED BY THE ROAR OF ANOTHER... THEN...

SORRY I'M LATE-- BUT THE PATROLMAN THOUGHT HE SAW AN UNREGISTERED CAR IN THE AREA...

CABLE! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE!

...WE WERE CHECKING IT OUT!



WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE CHECKED HERE FIRST!

WHAT--? AND YOU LET THEM GET AWAY?

THREE VERY UN-FRIENDLY PEOPLE WERE JUST HERE-- ATTEMPTING TO BUY OUR FORMULA!

YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTIFIED THE PATROL GUARD IMMEDIATELY!



AFRAID WE WERE A TRIFLE BUSY AT THE TIME, LT.!

YEAH? WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING...

...THAT CONVERSATION WE HAD ABOUT YOU TWO BEING MERCHANDISE WAS NO JOKE!

YOU'RE COMMODITIES, DOCTOR--YOU AND YOUR WIFE--TO BE BOUGHT, SOLD OR TRADED BY WHOEVER CAN MANAGE TO OWN YOU!



WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED HERE, DOCTOR--THE COUNTRY THAT CONTROLS YOUR FORMULA WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE WORLD!

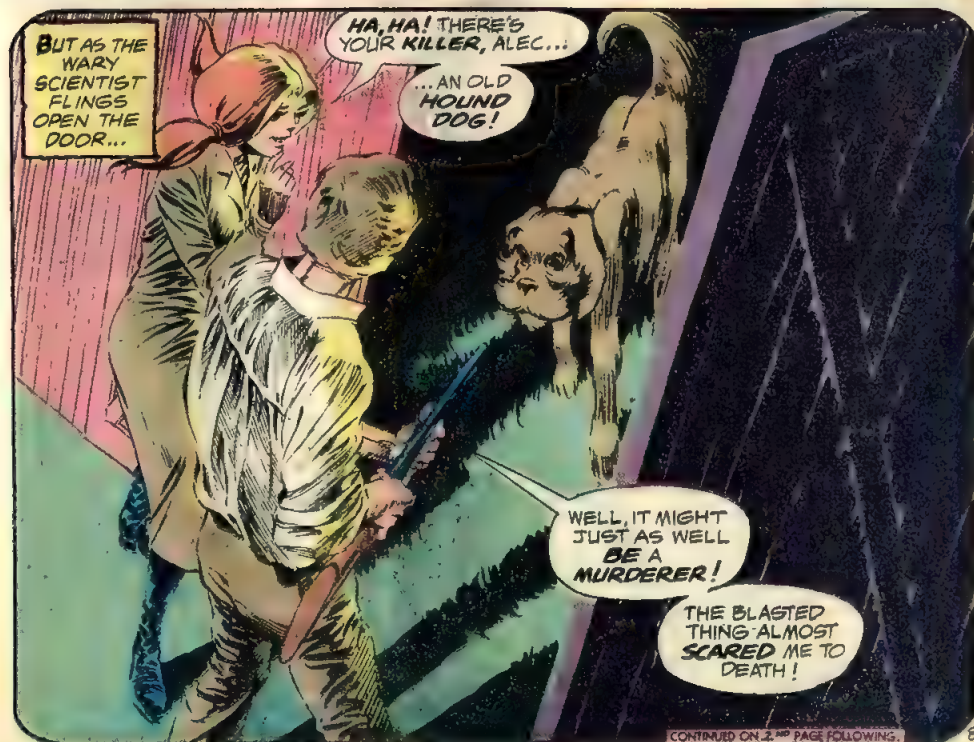
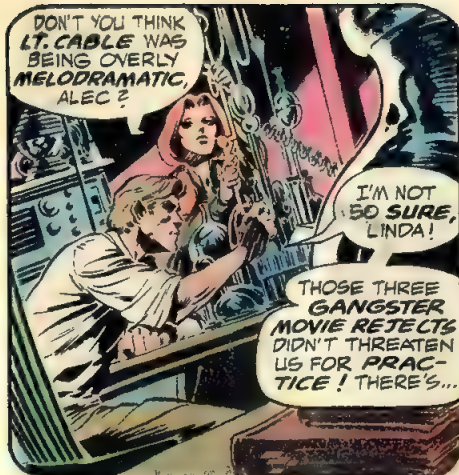
THINK ABOUT THAT! THINK HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO HOLD YOUR SECRET IN THEIR HANDS--!

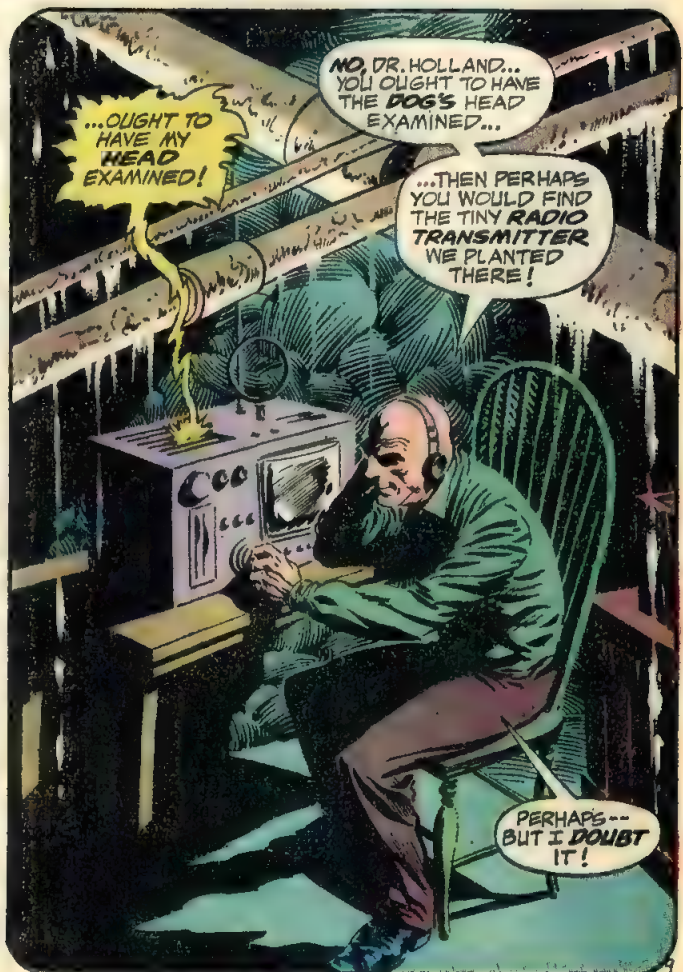
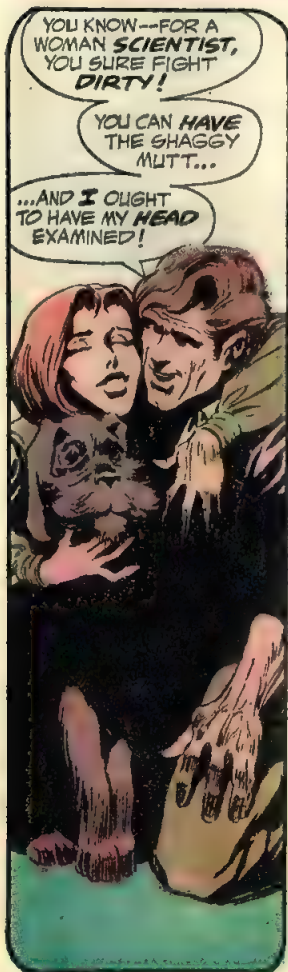
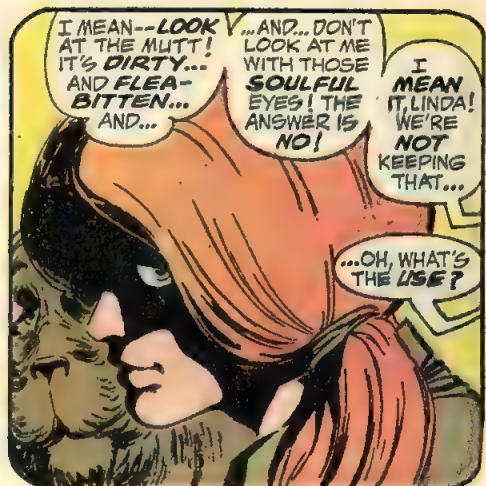


AND THINK HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD RATHER SEE YOU DEAD THAN TO LET THEIR ENEMIES HAVE YOUR FORMULA!

REMEMBER THAT, DOCTOR--THEY'D RATHER SEE YOU DEAD!

NEXT TIME YOU OPEN THAT DOOR, YOU'D BETTER KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT!







LOUISIANA BLUE
TO MISTER E.!
REPORTING AS
INSTRUCTED!

THE HOLLANDS
HAVE TAKEN IN THE
DOG AS EXPECTED--
ENABLING US TO
MONITOR THEIR
LAB AT ALL
TIMES!

EVERYTHING
PROCEEDING
ON SCHEDULE!



SPLENDID,
AGENT BLUE--
YOU HAVE DONE
WELL!

AS SOON AS
THE GOOD DOC-
TORS COMPLETE
THEIR EXPERI-
MENTATION, YOU
KNOW WHAT
MUST BE DONE!



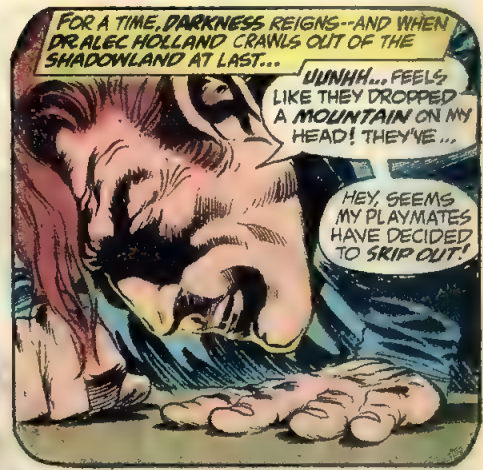
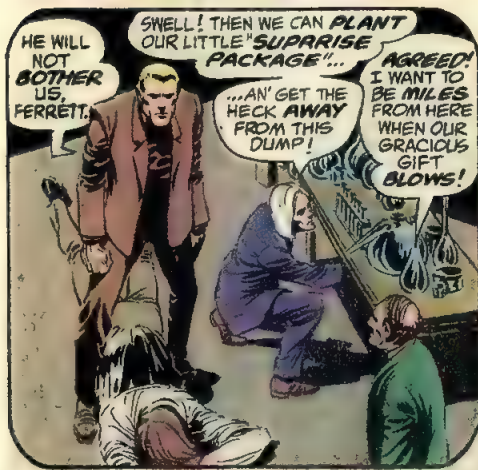
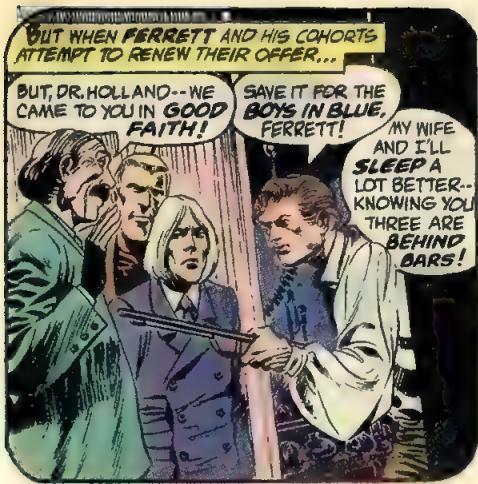
SEND FERRETT
AROUND TO SEE
THEM AGAIN--WITH
A REPEAT OF OUR
OFFER!

IF WE CAN GET THE
FORMULA WITHOUT ANY
DIFFICULTY, ALL WELL
AND GOOD--BUT IF
NOT...

THE CONCLAVE HAS
MANY ENTERPRISES THAT
WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED
BY OUTSIDE USE OF THAT
COMPOUND...

THUS, IF
WE CAN'T HAVE
IT, NOBODY
WILL!

THE HOLLANDS
AND THEIR
FORMULA
MUST BE
DESTROYED!



BWA ROOOOMMM!



IMAGINE PAIN--SO INTENSE IT DEFIES DESCRIPTION-- AS COUNTLESS UNCLASSIFIED CHEMICALS SEEP DEEP INTO THROBBING, FUME-ENVELOPED FLESH...



OH, MY GOD...

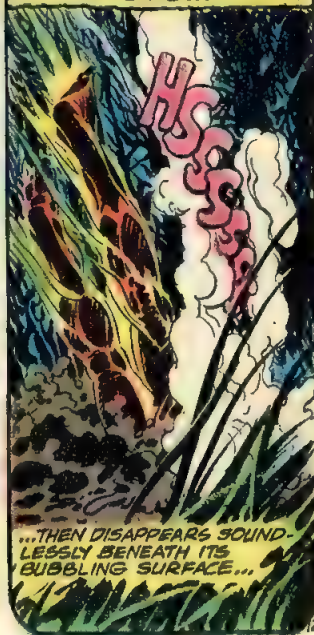
OH, MY DEAR, DEAR GOD--!

IMAGINE WHAT SUCH TERRIBLE SUFFERING CAN DO TO THE FRAGILE MIND...

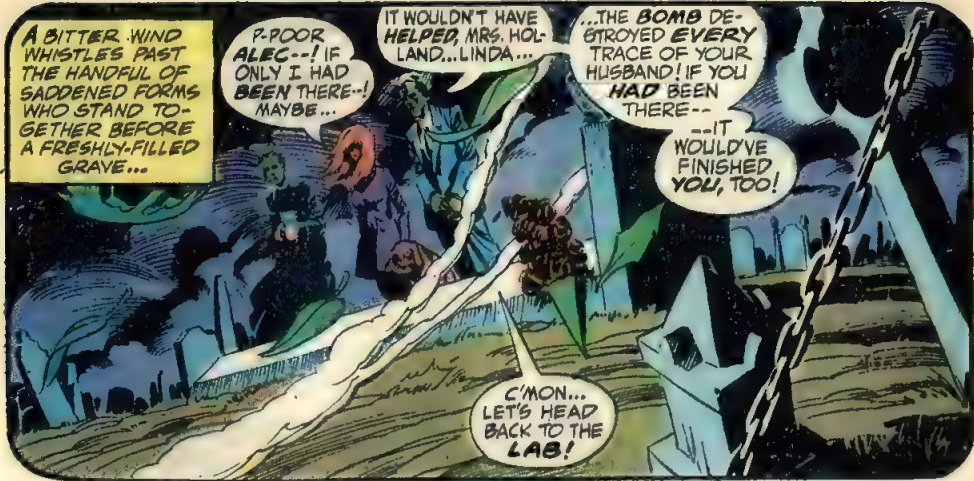


...AS IT DRIVES THE STRICKEN BODY FORWARD, CLAWING DESPERATELY AT THE COOL NIGHT AIR IN HOPES OF SOME SMALL COMFORT...

IMAGINE RELIEF--AS THE SMOLDERING MAN-SHAPE REACHES THE SOOTHING WATERS OF THE EVER-PRESENT BOG...



...THEN DISAPPEARS SOUNDLESSLY BENEATH ITS BUBBLING SURFACE...



A BITTER WIND WHISTLES PAST THE HANDFUL OF SADDENED FORMS WHO STAND TOGETHER BEFORE A FRESHLY-FILLED GRAVE...

?-POOR ALEC--! IF ONLY I HAD BEEN THERE--! MAYBE...

IT WOULDN'T HAVE HELPED, MRS. HOLLAND...LINDA...

...THE BOMB DESTROYED EVERY TRACE OF YOUR HUSBAND! IF YOU HAD BEEN THERE--

--IT WOULD'VE FINISHED YOU, TOO!

C'MON... LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE LAB!



LOOK AT THIS PLACE-- SPOTLESSLY CLEAN!

YOU CAN HARDLY TELL A MAN DIED HERE A FEW DAYS AGO...

...A GOOD MAN... MY MAN...

...MY POOR, DEDICATED ALEC--!

THEY PUT IT BACK TOGETHER AS QUICKLY AS THEY COULD, LINDA...

...DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE ANY TIME ON THE PROJECT!



OF COURSE-- THE PROJECT! THAT GOES ON, REGARDLESS... DOESN'T IT, CABLE?

NOBODY CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE OR DIE HERE...

...ONLY THE MISERABLE PROJECT!

AFRAID SO, LINDA--BUT WITH ALEC GONE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHO CAN HANDLE IT!

NOW WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF THE RAIN!



FUNNY--WHEN I WAS A KID, IT USED TO RAIN LIKE THIS-- DARK, CHILLING...

AS IF THE SKY WERE ALIVE--AND LIVING, FELT PAIN!

IT FEELS THAT WAY AGAIN TONIGHT... AND, LADY, I DON'T LIKE IT!

RAIN: SOME SAY IT CLEANSSES THE ALL-TOO-IMPURE EARTH-- OTHERS PROCLAIM IT THE SORROW OF THE GODS, REGRETTING THE TRAGEDY THEIR GOLDEN HANDS HAVE WROUGHT...

...THE TRAGEDY THAT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS MAN!

BUT THOSE WHO DWELL IN THIS TIME-LESS LAND CARE NOT FOR IDLE OPINION. THEY ARE CONTENTED TO BASK IN THE TEEMING TORRENT...


...UNTIL SOMETHING SUDDEN DISTURBS THEIR REPOSE...

...SOMETHING THAT CLAWS ITS WAY OUT OF THE GRASPING MIRE...

...AND INTO THE LIGHT ONCE MORE!

SOMETHING THAT PULLS ITSELF UPRIGHT ON UNSTEADY LEGS, SEARCHING ITS CLOUDY MIND FOR A FRAGMENT OF MEMORY...

...THEN PAUSES, STUDYING ITS GNARLED MISSHAPEN HANDS... EXAMINING THE CLUSTERS OF ROOT, THE CRUMBLING CHUNKS OF MOSS...

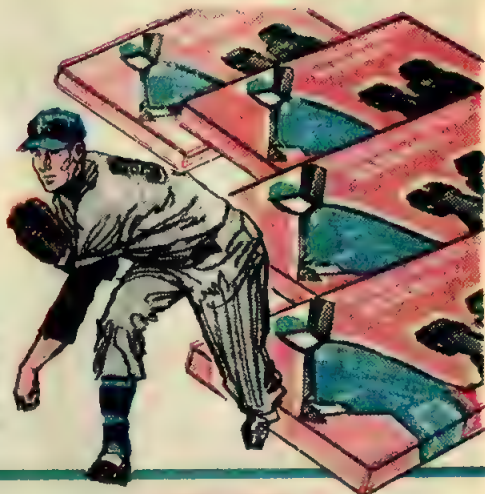


...AND
IN THAT
FRIGHTENING,
MIND-SHATTERING
SECOND--
KNOWS
WHAT IT HAS
BECOME!

A MUCK-ENCRUSTED,
SHAMBLING MOCKERY
OF LIFE... A TWISTED
CARICATURE OF
HUMANITY THAT CAN
ONLY BE CALLED...

YOU can manage in the Majors with STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.

As a STRAT-O-MATIC Major League Manager, you'll make the actual game-deciding moves Hook, Hodges, Alston, Weaver and Murtaugh make. You'll decide when to pinch-hit, play the infield in, change pitchers, signal for hit-and-run, bunt or hit away. Only STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL brings you so realistically face-to-face with the decisions a Big League Manager makes on the playing fields.



You're always arguing with that guy down the block about who can manage a Big League team better. Well now you can settle that argument under as close to real game conditions as you can find this side of a Major League dugout. And have great fun doing it playing STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball, the real-to-life game that uses actual big league players according to their proven abilities. It's strictly up to YOU to manage your players — to pull them together under your leadership into the most powerful team possible.

You know your baseball. What to expect from clutch-hitting Roberto Clemente with men on base. How to pitch to Willie Mays with Willie McCovey on deck. How the good control pitchers like Fergy Jenkins seem to get stronger in the late innings while "wild men" like Nolan Ryan tire. In STRAT-O-MATIC its up to you to get the most out of your players.

DO THINGS YOUR WAY

As you watch a game on TV, aren't there times when you disagree with the manager's decision? When you'd hold Tom Seaver back an extra day to match the Cardinal's Ace, Bob Gibson. Well STRAT-O-MATIC is your chance to play Big League baseball YOUR way.

As a STRAT-O-MATIC Manager, if you make the right decisions, you're going to win. That's because we've taken every possible statistic on 480 Big League players and put them into a computer. All this vital information is brought together on an individual performance card for EACH player. In STRAT-O-MATIC, a player performs as he does on the field. Brooks Robinson makes those incredible plays at third. Frank Howard hits them out of sight.

EASY-TO-PLAY

Sounds complicated? It's not. The computer does all the hard figuring. Playing STRAT-O-MATIC is easy. It's only the decisions that are hard. Should you hit and run with Boog Powell at bat. It reduces the chances of a groundball Double Play. But you take a chance on the free-swinging Powell taking a whiff as the runner is cut down at second. It's YOUR decision in STRAT-O-MATIC.

STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball begins when you make up your lineup. Would you go with Manager Spanky Anderson's day-to-day lineup for Cincinnati? Or would you slot Pete Rose in the important third place in the order rather than as lead-off? When, as Yankee Manager, is it time to yank Stan Bahnsen? Do you bring in McDaniel or Aker?

PLAY YOUR DREAM GAMES

Manage STRAT-O-MATIC against all the kids in the neighborhood. Play actual American and National League schedules. Play your inter-league "dream games" — Vida Blue on the mound for Oakland against the Mets with Tom Seaver. You can even pick your own ALL-STAR teams and manage them in a 7-game "World Series" rather than the inconclusive single game.

If you like Big League Baseball, you'll love STRAT-O-MATIC. And just playing it will help you to become a "headier" player yourself. Fill in the coupon and we'll mail you a colorful brochure explaining STRAT-O-MATIC BASEBALL in detail. It's free and includes free samples.

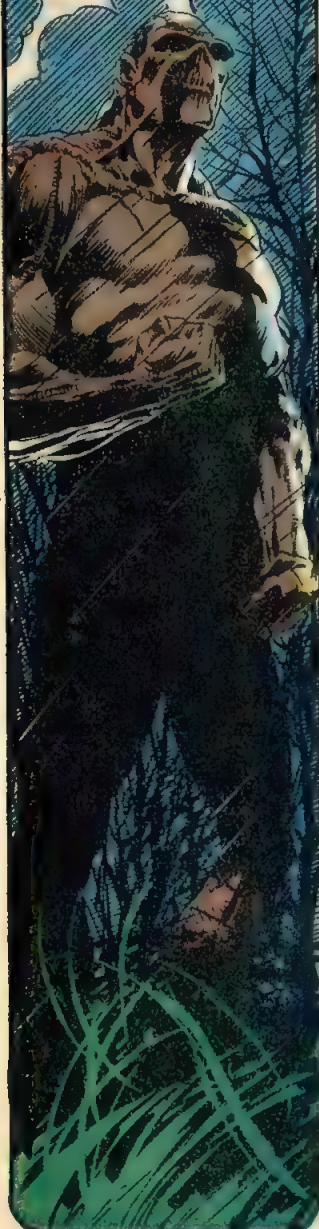
STRAT-O-MATIC GAME CO., INC. Dept. 838
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Please send me free brochure including samples
of STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball.
I enclose 10 cents to cover postage and handling.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Big League
Baseball... the
STRAT-O-MATIC way

SWAMP THING!

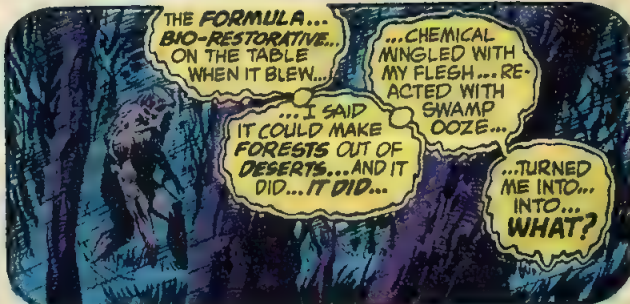


MUST BE LOGICAL...
MUST GATHER MY THOUGHTS...

BUT TRAGEDY THOUGH IT MAY BE, THE CREATURE BREATHE--AND THINKS...

EXPLOSION SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME... IT DIDN'T!

WHY? WHY?



THE FORMULA...
BIO-RESTORATIVE...
ON THE TABLE
WHEN IT BLEW...

...CHEMICAL
MINGLED WITH
MY FLESH... RE-
ACTED WITH
SWAMP
OOZE...

...I SAID
IT COULD MAKE
FORESTS OUT OF
DESERTS... AND IT
DID... IT DID...

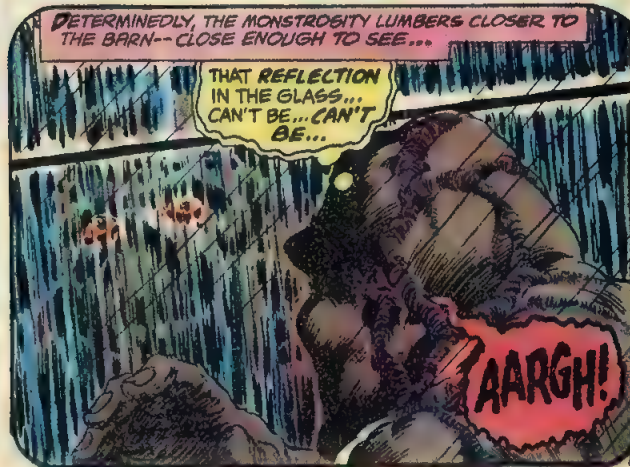
...TURNED
ME INTO...
INTO...
WHAT?



THE LAB... STILL
STANDS... AND
LIGHTS ARE
ON...

LINDA
WILL BE
THERE... SHE'LL
KNOW WHAT
TO DO...

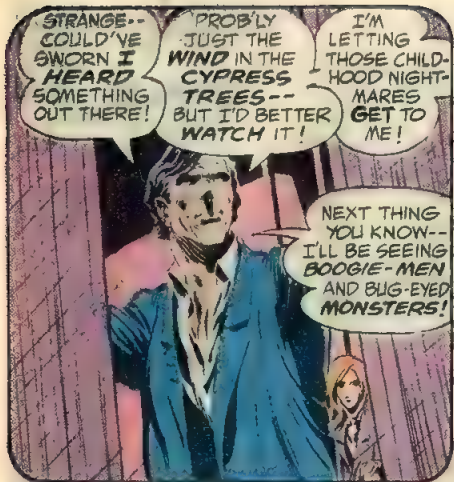
...SHE'LL...
HELP
ME...

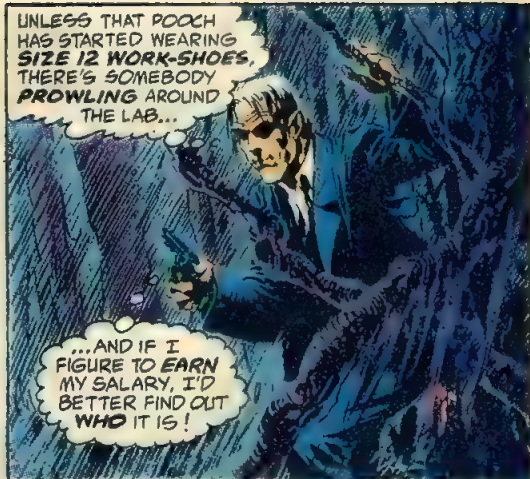


DETERMINEDLY, THE MONSTROUSITY LUMBERS CLOSER TO THE BARN-- CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE...

THAT REFLECTION
IN THE GLASS...
CAN'T BE... CAN'T
BE...

AARGH!







...ALONE... IS THERE A MORE TERRIBLE WORD? ALL THIS WAITING... ALONE... NO ONE TO TALK TO...

...IF I CAN TALK, THAT IS! I WONDER IF...

AWN

THERE'S... SOMETHING OUT THERE... IN THE BOO...



LINDA'S DOG... SINKING IN THE MIRE...

HOLD ON, LITTLE ONE... I'LL GET YOU OUT...

YIP-YIP!



BLAM!

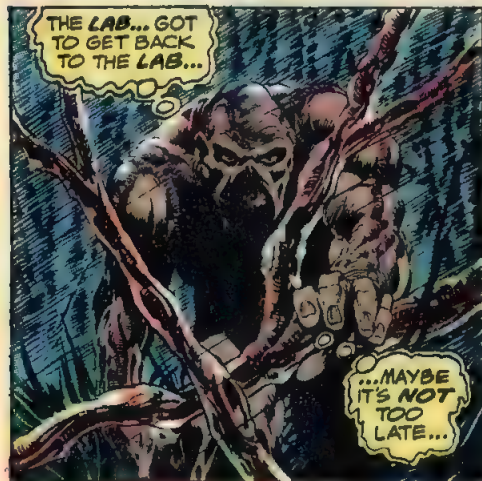
WOULDN'T WANT LINDA TO LOSE YOU, TOO! SHE'D...



NOOOO!

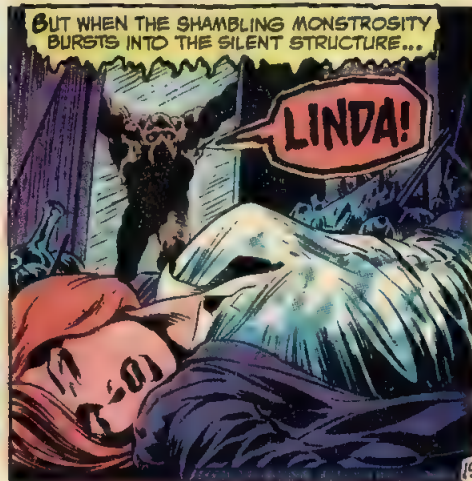


LINDA... MY LINDA... IF THEY'VE HURT YOU...



THE LAB... GOT TO GET BACK TO THE LAB...

...MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE...



BUT WHEN THE SHAMBLING MONSTROSITY BURSTS INTO THE SILENT STRUCTURE...

LINDA!

WHAT DOES THIS CHAMPION HAVE IN COMMON...WITH YOU?



DAVE DRAPER: "Mr. America - Mr. Universe" A Weider Pupil
See Dave's magnificent physique that won him a co-starring role in the movie "Don't Make Waves."

We can't promise you a movie career but we can guarantee a strong handsome and improved body.

**HE ANSWERED A WEIDER AD—GAINED 3 INCHES ON HIS ARMS
—4 INCHES ON HIS CHEST—IN 7 SHORT WEEKS! YOU TOO!**

You, too—just like Dave Draper—can now own a handsome, muscular body—fast! You, too, can now finally follow the exact same instructions this champ did, and in just 15 minutes a day, in the privacy of your own home, you can begin to slap on 4 inches to your chest and 3 inches to each arm, give yourself lifeguard shoulders, muscularize your waist, get speedy legs, and exercise your entire body. The techniques are simple, there's nothing complicated, just downright enjoyable.

I don't care if, today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body—whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young, if you send for my FREE 32-page booklet of muscle building information, I guarantee that you will experience a muscle building miracle; before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles start bursting out all over you. They will ripple with power, burst with energy—and for the first time in your life men will envy your body, women admire it, because at last you own a body that brings you fame instead of shame. Let me help you as I did other champions—who were also weaklings—to put

an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information—you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

A-C-T-I-O-N is the key to strength—make your first **No-Mess-Decision N-O-W!** Fill out the coupon right now, rush it to me, and in hours I will send you absolutely free—at my own expense—the exact same muscle building information I sent to Dave Draper and numerous champions, and to over 5 million other successful students. I am known as the most successful trainer of champions. I have been turning weaklings into "Mr. Americas" and "Mr. Universes" successfully since 1936. Don't pass up this once-in-a-lifetime proven successful offer to trade in your body for the one you always dreamed of having. Remember, you will be following in the proven, safe, scientific footsteps of the World's Best Men. So hurry! Put an end to your weakness now. Send for my sensational free offer—good only to males between 19 and 75 in normal good health. This is the most time-tested, results-producing course of all time.

IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE MUSCLE BUILDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO BUILD A HANDSOME BODY!



JOE WEIDER, Dept. 80-102V
Trainer of Champions since 1936
25 Maple Street Norwood, N.J. 07648

Dear Joe: Shoot the works! I agree, that just like the champions before me, I want to be a New Man! Rush me your free muscle-building information that I can use right now at home to build a handsome body. I have checked the gains I want to make. I'm enclosing 25¢ to cover handling and mailing charges. I am under no further obligation in any way.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____



Here's the kind of body I want (Check as many as you wish).

- Bigger arms
- Larger Chest
- Broader Shoulders
- Athletic Legs
- More Weight
- Lose Weight
- Magnetic Personality



JOE WEIDER
Personal trainer of "Mr. America" "Mr. Universe" "Mr. Canada" perfect men title winners since 1936 — and over 2,000,000 successful pupils the world over!

(please print clearly)
MAIL COUPON TODAY FOR FREE 32 PAGE COURSE!

NO OBLIGATION! NOTHING TO BUY!



LINDA...
LINDA...
IT'S MY
FAULT...
MY
FAULT...

...IF ONLY I
HADN'T GONE
FOR THE **DOG**...
IF I HADN'T
**TURNED
AWAY!**



THEN THE ROAR
OF AN AUTO-
MOBILE CHURNING
DOWN THE ROAD
CUTS THROUGH THE
SILENCE...



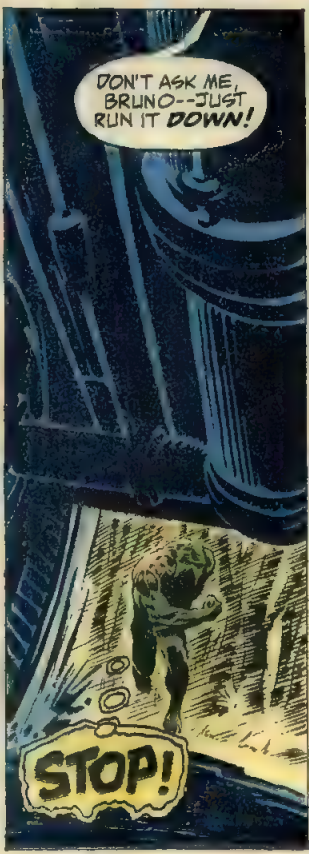
...AND THE MASSIVE MAN-MONSTER
ANSWERS ITS GRONLING CALL...

KAWRAWWW!



STOP!

F-F-FERRETT--!
WHAT IS THAT
THING?



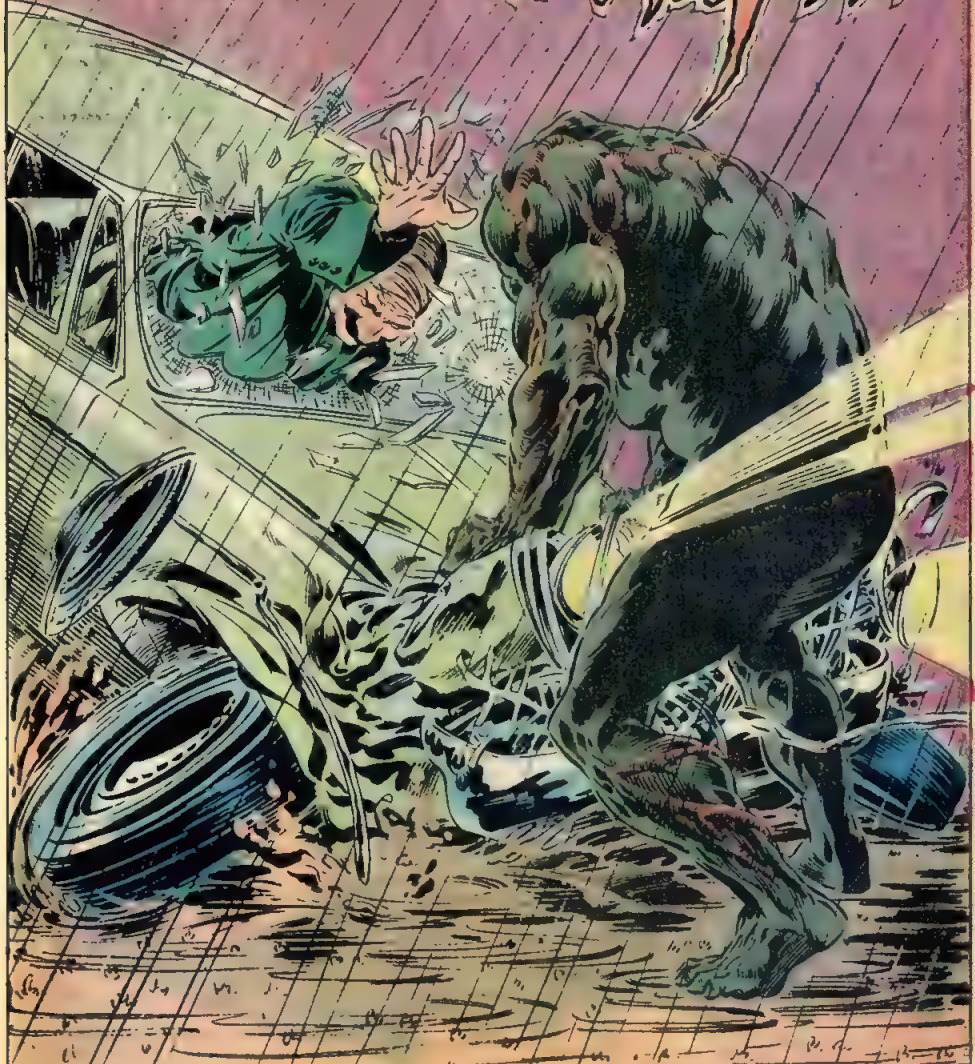
DON'T ASK ME,
BRUNO--JUST
RUN IT DOWN!

STOP!



I SAID...

STOP!!



GET THESE DYNAMITE EMBROIDERED CLOTH PATCHES THAT TELL IT LIKE IT IS!

EACH GROOVY PATCH MEASURES 3". MADE TO SELL FOR MUCH, MUCH MORE. YOUR SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY CHEERFULLY REFUNDED. ORDER NOW!

NOW ONLY 69c EACH FOR 3 OR MORE

75c EACH WHEN ORDERED SEPARATELY.
PAY ONLY 69c EACH FOR 3 OR MORE.



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8. Peace 9. Life Symbol 10. Pollution Skull 11. Black is Beautiful 12. Cobra 13. Help! I Need Lovin' 14. Peace Stogan



15. Life Stogan 16. Peace Sargeant 17. Woodstock Dove 18. Soul Power 19. Olympic Drinker 20. Roadrunner 21. Willy Coyote



22. Eye Spy 23. STP 24. Budweiser 25. All American Patch 26. US Flag 27. Confederate Flag



28. Flash Gordon 29. Chopper 30. Skull and Crossbones 31. Ecology Peace Flag



32. Popeya 33. Felix 34. Happy Face 35. Beatie's Sgt. Pepper

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3 or more, each 69c

HANDLING .35

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TOTAL \$

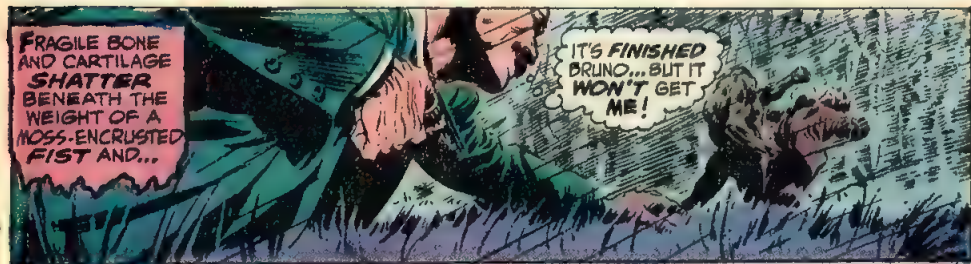
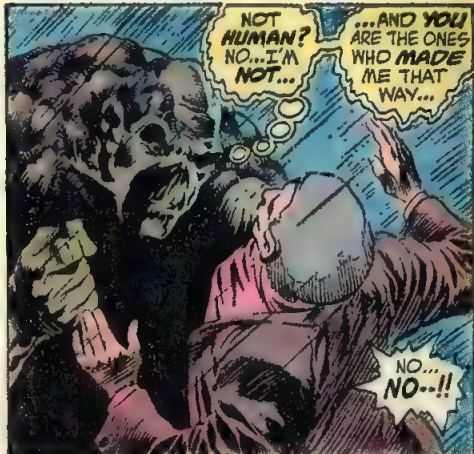
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ADDRESS _____ APT. NO. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Gandalf Products Co., Dept. NC-8
P.O. Box 38, New York, N.Y. 10022

Mail Orders to: **GANDALF PRODUCTS CO., P.O. Box 38, Dept. NC-8, New York, N. Y. 10022**





AND WHEN FERRETT'S SCREAMING HAS FINALLY STOPPED...

YOU CAN'T KILL A DEAD MAN, FERRETT...

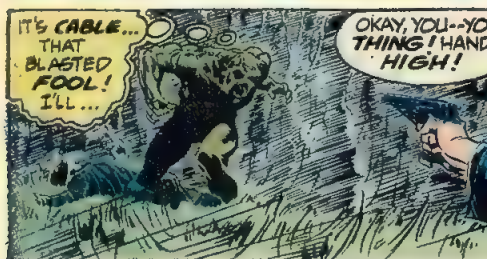
...AND THE MAN I WAS MOST DEFINITELY DEAD!



MAYBE YOU'LL REST EASIER NOW, LINDA! MAYBE WE BOTH WILL!!

HUH?

BLAW



IT'S CABLE... THAT BLASTED FOOL! I'LL...

OKAY, YOU--YOU THING! HANDS HIGH!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST-- FOR MURDER...

...AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!



NO, CABLE... I'M AFRAID NOT!

MUCH AS I WANT TO... I CAN'T GO WITH YOU...



...AND LORD HELP ME... I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME!

COME BACK HERE, YOU MONSTER...

...COME BACK..!

ALL RIGHT, MONSTER--
YOU GOT AWAY FROM
ME **THIS** TIME--
BUT WE'LL MEET
AGAIN...

...AND **NEXT**
TIME THERE'LL
BE NOBODY TO
SLUG ME WITH
A SHOVEL...

**NEXT TIME--
I'LL GET SOME
ANSWERS!**

DO YOU
HEAR
ME,
MONSTER...
DO YOU
HEAR ME??

I HEAR YOU,
MATT... BUT I
HAVE **NO**
ANSWERS
TO GIVE...

...DR. ALEC
HOLLAND
HAD ALL THE
ANSWERS...

...HE WAS AN
INTELLIGENT
MAN...

...BUT ALEC
HOLLAND
IS DEAD...

... AND IN HIS PLACE
STANDS ONLY A...

SWAMP THING!

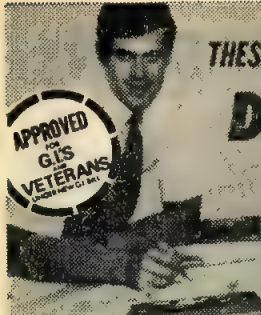
WHILE COUNTLESS MILES AWAY, IN A
TOWER AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD...

THERE, MY
PETS, IS THE
ONE WE HAVE
SPENT YEARS
SEARCHING
FOR...

THERE...
IS THE ONE
WE MUST
HAVE--

FETCH HIM,
MY PETS!
BRING HIM
HERE... TO
ME!

NEXT ISSUE: THE MAN WHO WANTED FOREVER!



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No. 130—Youth Sizes \$2.95 per team
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NFL COLOR BY NUMBER KIT



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No. 123.....\$1.00 each team



Each kit contains 9 authentic action sketches (7" x 9 1/2") of your favorite teams & stars, 9 pre-sharpened artists pencils in colors keyed to the teams picked and a "sports sharpener." Great fun coloring your favorite NFL heroes and the set comes in book form to make a perfect gift.
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Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

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I enclose _____ In full payment.

Item #	Team	How Many

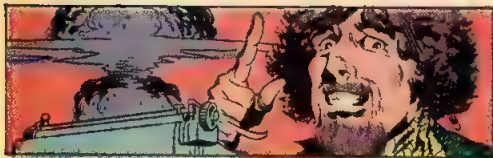
Please add 60¢ to your total order for postage

Name _____
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SWAMP THINGS

J-1823



Welcome to the world of SWAMP THING, a creature less than a man, but more than a monster. Is he a man? Is there a sign of humanity beneath the hulking form that lumbers haphazardly through the fetid swamplands? Or is he a monster, unfeeling, unthinking?

What was once a man no longer exists. In its place is the creature. But within the creature still lies the man . . . altered, in both mind and body, but still conscious. The question is, however, will the creature eventually control the man, or the man, the creature?

That is SWAMP THING . . . an enigma . . . a puzzle wrapped within a mystery. And he waits for you to unravel the bits and pieces that make him what he is.

We think you'll find SWAMP THING a different kind of book; a book that pierces through the vague shroud of the normal realm, and enters the world of the foreboding.

Where your mortal heroes fear to tread, SWAMP THING plunges through. Where reality seems to bend, SWAMP THING is there. Where Earth and Hell converge, SWAMP THING thrives.

Be with us each issue as SWAMP THING opens unexplored worlds . . . and trespasses beneath the shadows of the mind.

SWAMP THING was created by the slightly warped minds of Len Wein, Berni Wrightson, and Joe Orlando. For fans of *House of Mystery*, his name may be remembered. A year ago the tragic story of a man turned monster called Swamp Thing resulted in the largest avalanche of mail that any mystery-gothic story had ever received. Lavish praise was heaped upon the story and art. And well deserved it was. The story received such wide appreciation, that ACBA, the Academy of Comic Book Arts, has nominated it for a Shazam for best story of the year. By the time you read this, the decision on the winning story will have been announced. Whether or not Swamp Thing is the winner, we are still pleased that it has been considered as among the best stories for 1971.

But just who are Len Wein and Berni Wrightson? What kind of persons are responsible for the effort that has gone into a book such as this? This, then, is the story behind the creators.

LEN WEIN:

Len was born in the Bronx on the twelfth of June, 1948. He lived most of his early childhood there until he was about six and a half, when his family picked up and moved to Levittown, Long Island.

Len went to school in Levittown . . . whenever he was up to it, that is. Not that Len played hookey, it's just that he was always in the hospital for one reason or another. It was during one of these stays in the hospital that his father brought him a stack of comics almost as tall as he was, and he began reading them. He was about nine at the time. He was immediately addicted to them.

In High School he was told that he had a flair for drawing, and from that moment on he decided he was going to become a comic book artist. He enrolled in the Famous Artist class for cartooning, and when he graduated High School, majored in advertising art at Farmingdale State College. While at Farmingdale he met a girl by the name of Glynis Oliver. More on that later. During his stay at College, Len met another comic fan, Marv Wolfman, and the two began a team-up. They decided to break into pro-comix together, beginning with an awful story for a monster magazine named "Castle of Frankenstein." From there they went up to National Comics. As their styles developed, the team split up, and Len went on to write *The Phantom Stranger*, *Hot Wheels*, *Superman*, *Justice League*, *Star Trek*, and many other comic stories. Oh yes, Len married Glynis Oliver (remember her?) in March of this year. They reside in Queens, New York with their two cats, named Nudge and Kvetch. For those interested, Glynis Wein also works at National as a top member of their production team.

BERNI WRIGHTSON:

Berni was born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 27, 1948. He remained there for most of his life, moving to New York during the summer of 1968.

Berni was a comic fan as a kid, and especially enjoyed reading the great E.C. line of comic. Asked why the E.C.'s interested him so, Berni replied that he liked them because he knew he was doing something he really shouldn't be doing. It was the gothic comic that particularly interested Berni . . . and perhaps the reason may be that his home in Baltimore is located directly across the avenue from a cemetery, where, rumor has it, he spent many a night prowling among the tombstones.

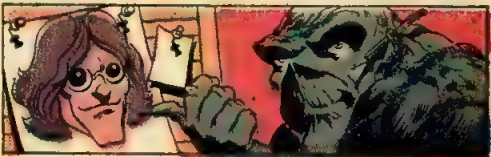
Berni always had an interest for art, though he never went to art school or took any special art courses. It was at the age of eleven or so when he first felt he put lines together well enough to become an artist.

Asked, who his idols in the art business are, Berni mentioned, Frank Frazetta, Joe Kubert, Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth among others.

Berni enjoys drawing, girls, and reading . . . particularly the Edgar Rice Burroughs adaptations by National which he calls "The most significant thing to happen to comics in ten years."

When asked if had anything he would like to say to the readers of *Swamp Thing*, Berni said "Tell 'em to buy *BadTime Stories*." For those in the know, *BadTime Stories* is a collection of stories especially written and illustrated by Berni Wrightson for that book. It comes highly recommended.

Now, what do you think of SWAMP THING? Send your letters to SWAMP THINGS, National Periodical Publications Inc., 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



100 PC.

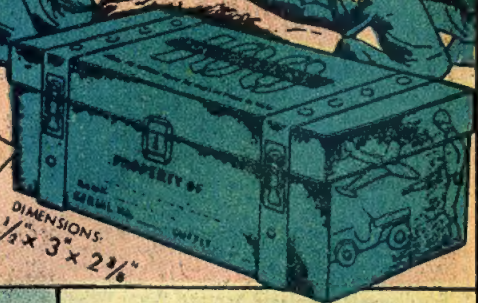
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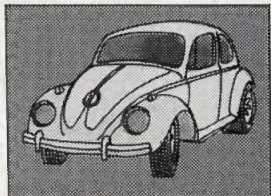
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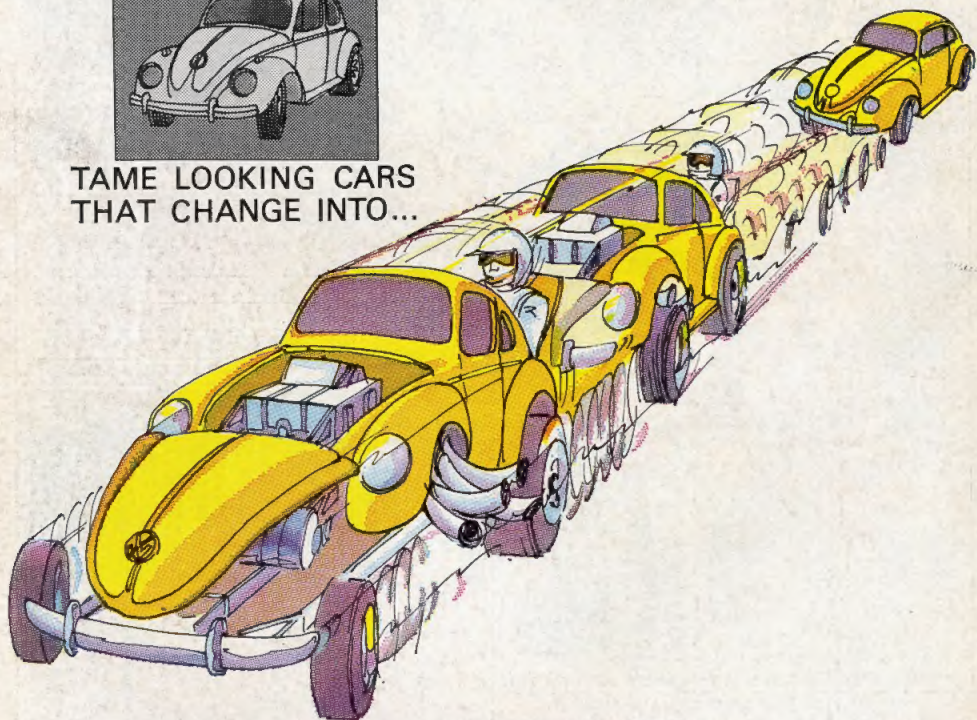
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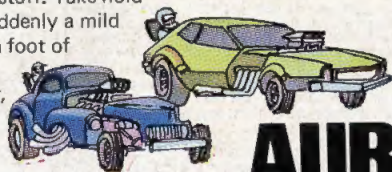


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